



YOUNG RIVER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

RIVER RUN

UNITY Edition July 2019



FIRST UNITY EXPERIENCE

I'm not so good at speaking, but I stepped out of my comfort zone and met so many new people. My highlight would have to be Joseph Davis' platform as co-president. His platform was to get more indigenous youth who are in foster care to participate in UNITY. I want to say as a kid who was in foster care, it really warmed my heart to see that they have a scholarship for kids like me to attend UNITY, and I'd like to thank council for allowing us with this opportunity.

- Cynthia Alvarez

ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

The Annual UNITY Banquet is a night to honor and recognize the many sponsors and individuals who help make the UNITY experience possible. One of the awards presented is the J.R. Cook Advisor of the Year Award. A few months prior to the conference when I had heard of the award, I automatically thought of how deserving our advisor Christine Porter would be of the award. She is a prime example of a dedicated and loving advisor. Chris dedicates many long hours into ensuring our youth council represents to the best of our ability and supports us 100% of the way. The application submitted for the award included a recommendation letter from President Harvier and a letter sent by me. Chris had no idea that she had been nominated for this award and when it was announced our whole youth council cheered and jumped up and down for her. Our whole youth council is so proud of her and we are so grateful for all the hard work and passion she has for us and our community.

- Nalani Lopez, Correspondent Secretary

WORKSHOPS

During the breakout sessions I went to the Tohono O'odham workshop about the the border and how it affects them since they are so close to it . It was very educational and interesting to hear the facts and stories they had to share. They told us how they would see people and help them by giving them water or something to eat . T.O's workshop was one of my favorite workshops I went to during UNITY . This was also my first time going to UNITY and it was a very good experience and can't wait to attend next years conference in Washington DC .

- **Chloe Johnson**



WORKSHOPS

Instead of going to a workshop, I helped lead our own workshop on substance abuse and how you can combat this issue with culture. We gave a PowerPoint presentation educating the youth on the affects drugs and alcohol have on Indian Country. Afterwards, we played a game of Kahoot based on the presentation. The winner got a gourd necklace made by Alyssa Andrews. I was glad people liked our workshop, we even had an Ojibwe girl share a poem with us that she made that was inspired by substance abuse issues plaguing her community. Knowing that this problem hurts everyone in Indian Country inspires me to take action to ensure a well future.

- **Sommer Lopez, President**

BUSINESS MEETING

Kerstin Johnson and I got to represent the Young River People's Council at the 2019 National UNITY Conference business meeting. We had to present our youth council reports. We reported on events and/or tasks we've completed such as filming PSAs, registering community members to vote, and O'odtham/Piipash word of the day on Instagram. We also got to hear the accomplishments of youth councils across Indian Country. We voted on behalf of the YRPC for the new Western Region Representative and Female Co-President. The new Western Rep. is Tyloria Antone from Tohono. It was a very informative and interesting meeting to be a part of.

- **Teegan Smith, Clerical Secretary**



FASHION SHOW

While attending UNITY, I had the opportunity to model for Norma Baker-Flying Horse's fashion line. 20 out of 200 youth were picked and I was lucky to be one of them. We were coached on how to walk up and down the runway and pose. It was a little scary at first, but once we were on the stage, we wanted to keep going. I enjoyed it so much and I'm glad I got to share the stage with others as well.

- Aniceya Miles

WESTERN REGION CAUCUS

During two days of UNITY we attended our caucus meetings. Being a part of the Western Region our caucus included AZ, NV, and NM. Through these meetings our reps (Teegan & Kerstin) were able to present what our YC has done over the past year and we were able to hear what others have done as well. The Western Rep Nominees shared their platforms and answered our questions. Lastly we got the chance to mingle and play ice breakers with the other councils in our region.

- Alyssa Andrews



The UNITY conference was amazing. It was my first and I really enjoyed having to be surrounded with so many unique cultures. The area caucuses helped me understand more about my region. Our workshop was successful and the Kahoot really helped bring in the crowd. It made me happy that our advisor got an award she very well deserved. I'm grateful to have been given the opportunity to go to Florida, Disney World, and the UNITY conference with my awesome youth council.

- Adora Howard



CULTURE NIGHT

Culture night was a neat experience, seeing all the different cultures. I loved watching the youth share their culture. It was fun dancing with our sister tribes. I never danced with all 4 of our sister tribes so it was really beautiful seeing all of us together.

- Kerstin Johnson

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PSA

On the last day of UNITY I presented the "Tradition Not Addiction" PSA that my sister Christina Schurz and I created. We had lots of meetings with Monte Yazzie from brainstorming, writing, seeking actors, getting props, and filming. It took months to put it all together. I talked about how the process of creating the PSA. I encouraged the other youth councils to get inspiration from our PSA and do something similar because I feel like anyone can do it. They can always create awareness in their community using social media.

- Erica Schurz



Mentorship Program at the Banquet



For questions about joining the Young River People's Youth Council please email Christine Porter at:
Christine.porter@srpmic-nsn.gov
 or call 480-362-7527

Instagram:
[@youngeriverpeoplescouncil](https://www.instagram.com/youngeriverpeoplescouncil)

Facebook:
[@Young River People's Council](https://www.facebook.com/YoungRiverPeoplesCouncil)